



## Army celebrates 60 years of integrated force

Story and photo courtesy of Army News Service

On July 26, 1948, President Harry S Truman signed Executive Order 9981, establishing the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services.

It was accompanied by Executive Order 9980, which created a Fair Employment Board to eliminate racial discrimination in federal employment.

"Our mission in the Army is to fight and win our nation's wars. In order to be an effective team and in order to be effective on the battlefield, we have to work together," said Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commanding general, Multi-National Corps - Iraq. "We [U.S. Army] treasure diversity; we appreciate the different viewpoints, ideas and cultures that come together."

Segregation in the military services did not officially end until the Secretary of Defense announced on September 30, 1954 that the last



Black infantry troops train on a radio system at Fort Benning, Ga. June 1941. Segregation in the military services officially ended with the abolition of the last all-black unit in 1954.

all-black unit had been abolished. However, the president's directive put the armed forces at the forefront of the growing movement to win an equal social role and equal treatment for our nation's African-American citizens.

"What I see as I go around the battlefield every day is not a concern for what race you are or what culture you came from, but how you perform as a Soldier," Austin said. "I see incredible teamwork and we can all be justifiably proud of our Soldiers, airmen and Marines

and how well they are working together. They are living the dream the president had in 1948."

The Army, a little slow initially to embrace the change, began integrating units during the Korean War. Eighth Army commanders in Korea began filling losses in their white units with individuals from a surplus of black replacements arriving in Japan in late 1950. By early 1951, 9.4 percent of all African-Americans arriving in theater were serving in some 41 newly and unofficially integrated units. An-

other 9.3 percent were in integrated but predominantly black units. The other 81 percent continued to serve in segregated units.

In December 1952, the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. J. Lawton Collins, ordered worldwide integration of Army units. All of the earlier fears cited to support the continuation of a segregated Army proved to be groundless. There was no increase in racial incidents, no breakdown of discipline, no uprising against integration

See **INTEGRATE**, Page 2

# Electronic library kiosk bound for Victory

Story by Michael McNulty

European Regional Library  
Support Center

Camp Victory is nearly 2,000 miles from the nearest Army library in Europe. But Soldiers deployed at the sprawling base near Baghdad International Airport will soon have access to a broad spectrum of such resources via an e-Branch kiosk.

A team of movers packed and loaded the kiosk July 14 at the European Regional Library Support Center in Heidelberg, Germany, for shipment to Camp Victory, where it will be installed at the Victory Education Center.

“The kiosk will have a wonderful home here” said Staff Sgt. Jimmy Labas, education programs director at Victory Education Center.

Labas said the kiosk “offers a wonderful array of knowledge and research capabilities” for all servicemembers assigned to the camp. “It truly is a key to success

of Soldiers, Marines, (airmen) and (sailors) alike,” he said. “We are becoming the leading education center in Iraq and are grateful to have such a useful tool.”

Army Europe Libraries also have kiosks at the USO Pat Tillman Center, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan; the Warrior Transition Unit at Kleber Kaserne near U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern, Germany; and the ERLSC in Heidelberg.

The e-Branch kiosks are designed to support educational opportunities for troops and deliver electronic library services and information to customers who can’t get to a brick-and-mortar library.

The freestanding kiosks are quick and simple to use with touch-screen technology and pre-programmed buttons. The pre-programmed buttons mean that soldiers don’t have to remember Web site addresses or search for information. They simply touch the buttons on the screen to go to news, sports, scholarly



Photo by Amy Drayer, ERLSC

Movers crate an Army Europe Libraries e-Branch kiosk for shipment to Camp Victory, Iraq. The e-Branch kiosks are designed to support educational opportunities for Soldiers and deliver electronic library services and information to customers who can’t get to a brick-and-mortar library.

articles or 24/7 virtual reference services from military librarians.

Soldiers can also use the kiosks to access a wide selection of virtual library materials: online books; newspapers; journals; magazines; dictionaries; and encyclopedias. Additionally, customers can find free information on education, business, law, marriage and family, health and fitness, government, travel and other customized information.

## INTEGRATE, from Page 1

by white Soldiers or surrounding white communities, no backlash from segregationists in Congress, or major public denouncements.

The Army and the nation were taking the first steps toward racial equality and harmony that would be at the

core of the civil rights movement of the early 1960s.

“The military services represent our culture in America,” Austin said. “We are a diverse population and that is reflected in the Army and the rest of the services.”

The integration of the armed forces did more than just provide opportunity for African-American Soldiers; it opened the door of opportunity for people of all ethnic backgrounds.

*(Marine Cpl. Frances L. Goch contributed to this story.)*



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# Keep guidelines in mind during elections

By Capt. Derrick Knapp

*MNC-I SJA*

This fall there is going to be a monumental change of power. Interest in the election is high because polls show the majority of Americans think our country is headed in the wrong direction. Our country is in a recession, there is a credit crisis, the dollar is weak, trade deficits are too big, gas, housing, and food prices are high, and there is a huge federal deficit.

With so much on the line shouldn't the military deployed to Iraq be more involved in the election? After all we have firsthand knowledge

of a divisive election issue and our lives are more intimately affected than the average citizen.

The military's role is not to influence who will be our civilian leaders. The fact that politics are not officially discussed in or by the military is a testament to the professionalism of the military. Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, said "A professional armed force that stays out of the politics that drive the policies it is sworn to enforce is vital to the preservation of the union and to our way of life." We should not to use our uniform as a platform to voice opinions on politics. We can vote and make monetary con-

tributions. We can also express personal opinions on political candidates and issues as a private citizen.

It is okay to discuss politics amongst friends, but doing so in a business setting is almost always bad form no matter how right you think you are. Leaders should promote and encourage Soldiers to exercise their right to vote as long as that promotion does not constitute a solicitation to vote for a particular candidate.

If you are involved in politics be sure to read Army Regulation 600-20, Appendix B to ensure your political activity is as a private citizen and not as a representative of the Armed Forces.

## Joining in prayer



Photo by Pfc. Eric J. Glassey, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

Col. Scott Donahue, director, C7, Multi-National Corps – Iraq, speaks during the Task Force Dragon Special Troops Battalion Prayer Breakfast July 17. The monthly prayer breakfast provides an opportunity for Camp Victory personnel to gather together to share their faith. The prayer breakfast is the third Friday of every month and begins at 7:30 a.m. in the NFL Room at the Sports Oasis.

## Military Happenings



### Army launches new Web site for 'Gifts' to Soldiers

*Army News Service* - The "Gifts to Army" Web site, launched Monday, is an online resource developed to streamline and process gifts to the Army that benefit Soldiers and their Families.

The launch of the site centralized the many venues and paths for the public whose offers of support fall within the Army's overall Gift Program. Contribution options addressed on the site include support for the Army, Soldiers and their Families, wounded warriors, Army installations and more.

The "Gifts to Army" Web site provides a central source of information to refer those interested in contributing to and supporting Soldiers and Army Families and offers ways for them to express that support, should they choose. For more information, visit the "Gifts to Army" Web site at [www.giftstoarmy.army.mil](http://www.giftstoarmy.army.mil).

### Senate committee reviews Air Force nominees

*Air Force News Service* - Senate Armed Services Committee members presented a number of questions and challenges to Air Force civilian and military leader nominees July 22 on Capitol Hill.

Michael Donley, the acting secretary of the Air Force, and Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, nominated to become the next chief of staff of the Air Force, presented their vision for leading the service if they are confirmed to the new positions.

Also joining the panel was Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Duncan J. McNabb, who was nominated to succeed Schwartz as the commander of U.S. Transportation Command. If the committee approves, the nominations will go before the full Senate for a final vote. If the president then concurs, he'll offer official appointments to the nominees.

### U.S., Indonesia dive into salvage ops

*Navy News Service* - Divers from the United States and Indonesian Navies began a six-day diving operation July 21 to survey a wreck in Surabaya harbor as part of joint naval engagement activities between the two nations.

A joint diving team will conduct survey dives to identify the sunken vessel and determine potential salvage hazards such as fuel, explosives and dangerous cargo.

Once the survey is complete, the diving teams will develop an underwater mechanical demolition plan to raise the vessel and remove it from the harbor.

NEA is part of an annual series of bilateral maritime training exercises between the United States and several Southeast Asian nations designed to build relationships and enhance the operational readiness of the participating forces.

### K3 Oil Refinery opens

*Marine Corps News Service* - The K3 Oil Refinery opened July 18 and is ready to pump life into the city of Haditha and Anbar province, Iraq.

"The refinery is going to help the western region (of Iraq)," said Col. Mohammad Hussein Al Shofer, Iraqi Provisional Security Forces. "Marines have really been supportive in the project."

The combined effort of Marines and the Iraqi government has yielded great results. The refinery has the capacity to process 16,000 barrels of oil per day and will provide many jobs for local Iraqis.

Although, the local populace in the area will benefit the most from the refinery, the refinery will in many ways, help all of Iraq.